

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	ORDER OF
)	
or Suspension of the Educators)	SUMMARY SUSPENSION
)	
Certification of Jamar A. Washington)	
)	
Certificate #180688)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on July 8, 2003. The State Department of Education (Department) will send a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educators certificate #180688 (certificate) to Mr. Jamar A. Washington by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. In the interim in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. §1-23-370(c) (1986), the Department requested that the State Board summarily suspend Mr. Washington's certificate until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved. The Department has reason to believe, due to the nature of the misconduct that led to Mr. Washington's arrest and subsequent resignation, that Mr. Washington may pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students that may be under his instruction. This summary suspension will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a summary suspension pending due process proceedings. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to summarily suspend Mr. Washington's certificate until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved.

Mr. Washington holds a South Carolina teaching certificate and has over seven years of experience credit. He was under contract as a teacher/coach at Manning High School in Clarendon County School District Two (District) for the 2002-2003 school year. He was arrested on April 30, 2003, and charged with committing a lewd act on a child under 16. He resigned his position with the District shortly thereafter. A fourteen-year old female student alleged that Mr. Washington verbally and physically abused her on April 10, 2003, by placing his

hands on her behind and her crotch and admitting he was looking at her behind in class earlier that day. He later told her not to tell anyone what he did or said. She immediately told her friends and later a school official. The student alleged that Mr. Washington has touched her inappropriately and said inappropriate things to her in the past. The police investigation is continuing, since the first student indicated she was not the only one treated inappropriately by Mr. Washington.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes: "immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; unprofessional conduct; and crime against the law of this State or the United States." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (1986), "If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." The State Board finds that there is reason to believe that Mr. Washington may pose a threat to the welfare of students that may be under his instruction. Accordingly, the State Board thereby summarily suspends Mr. Washington's certificate # 180688 until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Greg Killian
Greg Killian
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
July 8, 2003